



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

FEB 05 2019

Mr. Timothy S. Franquist
Director, Air Quality Division
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85507

Dear Mr. Franquist:

I am pleased to concur with your request to exclude data showing exceedances of the 2008 8-hour ozone (O₃) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) on July 7, 2017, at nine monitors in the Phoenix-Mesa, AZ nonattainment area under the Exceptional Events Rule (EER).

The submittal from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)¹, dated May 17, 2018, included documentation that the exceedances were caused by exceptional events due to wildfire emissions. After thoroughly reviewing the information you provided, we agree that your submittal meets the demonstration criteria, as well as the schedule and procedural requirements in the EER. The basis for our concurrence is set forth in the enclosed technical support document. My staff will enter concurrence flags for these data into EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database.

EPA's concurrence is a preliminary step in the regulatory process for actions that may rely on these data and does not constitute final Agency action. If EPA completes a notice-and-comment rulemaking for an action that is influenced by the exclusion of the O₃ data specified in this concurrence, EPA's concurrence letter and accompanying technical support document would be included in the record as part of the technical basis for the proposed action. If we receive comments, we must consider and respond to those comments before taking final regulatory action. When EPA issues that regulatory action, it is a final Agency action subject to judicial review. As you are aware, concurrence on this event alone is not sufficient to make a regulatory determination that the Phoenix-Mesa, AZ nonattainment area has attained the 2008 8-hour O₃ NAAQS by the statutory attainment date for Moderate areas. EPA is continuing to evaluate the demonstration submitted regarding whether exceptional events caused exceedances of the NAAQS that occurred on June 20, 2015. EPA anticipates issuing a determination regarding that demonstration shortly.

¹ While submitted by ADEQ, the demonstration was developed through a joint effort by ADEQ, Maricopa Association of Governments, and Maricopa County Air Quality Department.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (415) 972-3183, or Meredith Kurpius at (415) 947-4534.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Adams
Director, Air Division

Enclosure

cc (via email): Brad Busby, ADEQ
Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments
Matthew Poppen, Maricopa Association of Governments